

GREEN FUEL CELL HYBRID TAXI UNVEILED AT CITY HALL *by Sandie Goodwin and Bob Fisher*



ZERO TAXI TAIL PIPE EMISSIONS BY 2020

Boris Johnson has committed to working with manufacturers to make all taxis operating in London zero tail-pipe emissions by 2020. The consortium responsible for the new taxi estimate a small fleet of the vehicles will be on the road for the Olympics in 2012. London will see the development of 6 hydrogen refuelling stations across London by 2012, and the operation of five hydrogen-fuel cell buses later this year. As London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Chair of the London Hydrogen Partnership, Kit Malthouse, commented that the zero emissions are good for everyone. He said: "The black cab is a much loved London icon, but it is also a significant source of pollution especially in the centre of the city. This prototype Fuel Cell Black Cab, which emits only water from its tailpipe, is an exciting glimpse of how hydrogen technology could soon play a vital role in cleaning up air quality for urban dwellers."

LTI Vehicles provided the donor vehicles for the consortium, to assist with the structural modifications to the chassis of the taxis. Lotus Engineering has packaged the full propulsion system including the fuel cell engine and has designed control systems to optimise performance of both the fuel cells and electric drive systems. TRW Conekt led the safety analysis programme, including braking and steering systems.



FUTURE ACTION PLAN FOR HYDROGEN

The London Hydrogen Partnership is chaired by Kit Malthouse. It recently published an action plan detailing ways to help accelerate the wider use of this zero-polluting, zero-carbon energy in the capital. This includes plans to create a 'Hydrogen network' by 2012, by working with London boroughs and private landowners to deliver at least six refuelling sites to run hydrogen-powered vehicles in the capital over the next two years. One is already being built in east London for the refuelling of the five hydrogen-fuelled buses that will begin running on London's RVI route later this year.

EAST LONDON CABBIES OUTING



Once again this year, the ELCO will be going to Maldon.

We need drivers for this years outing
on Wednesday 7th July.

If you would like to put a smile on the face of
a special needs child, please give us a ring.

Ken 07973462351 Jeff 07841395006